will take steps to see that the transmitters in Tamil Nadu are strengthened so that the people sitting in Delhi as well as those in the neighbouring States can hear the Tamil news and Tamil songs from Madras or Tiruchy.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: Or even in Delhi itself.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: All the local language programmes must be heard... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: After the expansion or upgradation of the various radio transmitters in the State, as a result of the present efforts, is complete, a majority of them will be taken care of. I cannot stop "Radio Ceylon" from being heard here.

SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN: You can strengthen ours.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: As far as his hearing of Tamil Programmes sitting here in Delhi is concerned, wherever possible, we will try to do it... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: Also, will any arrangement be made in the Delhi Station for hearing the Tamil news and other important Tamil matters? Once an arrangement was there and now it has been stopped, I think.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: All transmitters should be strengthened and only then we can hear... (*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think I can pass on the next Question. Question No. 102. Mr. Giri Prasad. Not here. Yes, Mr. Guru Das Gupta.

Aids for Modernisation of NTC Mills

*102. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:†

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had agreed at a meeting on the 10th June, 1993 to advance 11 crore rupees to the NTC mills in West Bengal, Assam, Orissa and Bihar to facilitate their revival and to undertake short-term modernisation programmes;

(b) whether it is a fact that the fund has not been released as yet; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): Sir, since Mr. G. Venkat Swamy is indisposed, he has requested me to reply and with your permission, I am replying on his behalf. (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) In a meeting held on 10th June, 1993, the requirement of additional working capital of the mills under NTC (WBAB & O) Ltd. for six months had been assessed at Rs. 11.00 crores out of which a sum of Rs. 6.40 crores have already been released.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Sir, the Minister could not come here because he is sick and the NTC also will become sick.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Gurudas Das Gupta.

MR. CHAIRMAN: But he has taken my permission.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Sir, the point is that a meeting was convened on the 10th of June by the Minister of Textiles with the Members of Parliament where the representatives of the Government of West Bengal were also present. We discussed at length the question of keeping the NTC mills in West Bengal, Bihar and Orissa going so that after the Government formulated a programme for their revival and found money to pay for their revival, these mills could be revived. Our point is that you are giving them money so that the NTC mills are not closed down before the revival plan is finalised by the BIFR and the Government had agreed. But the important point is that in a situation when the NTC mills were sick, when they had no money to purchase cotton, to purchase fibre, and when they were not in a position to do the repair works and all that, there was an inordinate delay in releasing the same and because of the delay, these mills had no money to maintain production. Therefore, we had to pay idle wages as a result of which the losses of the NTC mills mounted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please formulate your question.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: In view of this, I would like to know from the honourable Minister what the reasons were for which the Government had to break the promise it had made could not pay the money and created further trouble for the NTC mills.

SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED: Sir, I would like to submit humbly that there was no breaking of any promise. In fact, an exercise of finding out what the requirement was started in the month of May and it was decided that these mills would require Rs. 15.5 crores to keep the mills alive for the coming six months, they would be requiring this amount and, out of that, a sum of Rs. 4.5 crores had already been given till the meeting on 10th June. Then, later on, on the 17th of July, Rs. 6.00 crores had been released and another Rs. 40 lakhs on the 30th of June. Out of this amount of Rs. 15.5 crores, about Rs. 10 crores was for meeting the other commitments and about Rs. 5 crores for the purchase of cotton. Out of that, it is only Rs. 4.6 crores which is remaining and, again, out of this, cotton worth about Rs. 25 lakhs is in the pipeline. Only cotton worth Rs. 4.6 crores remains to be supplied from the Maharashtra Federation and other Federations. There is no break of any promise on the part of the Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Second supplementary.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Sir, he says, "will be supplied". My point is, why is it not "supplied"? The problem is that the NTC mills do not have money. And if the Government does not give the money at one go, if it is given by trickles, then, because of lack of working funds, they will just close down. That is the situation. And they have agreed that the money will be given at one go by the end of June. That was the clear position that they had taken. They have not given the money by the end of June. They have given it only in instalments. Whether that is a violation or not, that is for you to decide, Sir. Therefore, part (a) of my question is: Is the Government aware that if the fund is not given at one go, the question of running these mills so far as the working capital is concerned, will be in difficulty, and as a result of that, loses will mount? That is part (a). Part (b) of my question is that there are many other mills in the country. The Government has decided to close down 40 mills, and a

number of mills have been referred to the BIFR. And the BIFR is taking a long tie...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is concluding the second part of his question.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Sir, a large number of mills have been referred to the BIFR. The BIFR is taking a long time unusually long time. And till the BIFR makes up its mind for the revival, will the Government of India keep these mills under the BIFR running by giving them working capital so that the question of instalment payment does not occur?

SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED: Sir, I have very clearly submitted that out of these Rs. 15.5 crores, Rs. 10 crores is for cash loss reimbursement, and Rs. 5.41 crores is for maintenance backlog, etc. Out of this, the total cash that was to ge given to this subsidiary has been given. It is only in the shape of cotton that has to be supplied to this mill. It is being supplied. And as I submitted eariler, a part of it is in the pipeline. And so far as this figure is concerned, this figure was to cover and meet the requirement of six months, that is, up to the end of October. So, that question of defaulting or any such thing does not arise. This amount has to be paid. And I don't think there was any understanding as such that the whole amount of Rs. 15 crores will be given in one month, and that too by the end of June. The records with me show that this amount has to cover the requirements up to the end of October. And that is how this amount has been given. The cash amount that was to be given to them has already been given.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Sir, the second part of my question about the mills under the BIFR in the rest of the country has not been answered.

SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED: Sir, how can we just now say about the mills under the consideration of the BIFR? (*Interruptions*) There is an official agency appointed under the BIFR.....

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: I have referred to the NTC mills under BIFR. I would like tht Government to respond whether they will make funds available to the NTC mills under the BIFR so that they can keep on going Otherwise, if the mills are closed before the BIFR takes a decision, what is the use of going to the BIFR?

SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED: I have already answered....

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: How have you answered it?

SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED: .... that this Rs. 15.5 crores is to cover the requirement of the next six months, that is up to the end of October.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think, the Minister has answered it.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: He has not understood my question at all.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: He cannot understand the question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Yashwant Sinha

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, my question is a question of procedure, and because the Minister is substituting for his sick colleague, he will be perfectly at liberty not to reply to that question. And I cannot ask the Finance Minister. He does not come to the rescue of his own colleagues. So, I don't think he will come to the rescue of the hon. Textiles Minister. Sir, I am intrigued by one word in this reply. It

says that the requirement of additional working capital of the mills was worked out as Rs. 11 crores. This meeting was held in the month of June, which mean that the NTC mills must have approached sometime earlier than June, which means that in the very first half of the financial year, there was a need for additional requirement of the working capital. Therefore, the first part of the question is, what was it which was estimated in the Budget as the requirement of working capital for the NTC mills, specially the NTC mills of West Bengal, Orissa, Bihar, Assam, etc.? And this figure has now been revised to Rs. 11 crores.

The second part of my question is, where is this money coming from? Has the Finance Ministry or has the Textile Ministry got a provision for this money? A very important question that arises is that if this is the additional requirement only for six months, then there will be a requirement for the later part of the year which means that in his Budget Estimates the Finance Minister has not only misled the Parliament but also the people of this country in regard to the requirements of the public sector undertakings by and large. Therefore, I would like the hon. Minister, if he so chooses, to answer it. He can plead ignorance because of his being a substitute.

SHRI KAMALUDDIN: My submission is that....

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is answering the questions very well.

SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED:... the figure I gave was only for the mills under the West Bengal subsidiary. The overall modernisation requirement of the NTC for the turn-round strategy was worked out to Rs. 533 crores, or something like that. Now the question is, it started with the representation of the West Bengal Chief Minister that these mills which are under Calcutta subsidiary, require a working capital and also to meet whatever other commitments are there. So on that, a meeting was held and this figure was arrived at in this meeting to meet the six-month's requirements of the mills which are under the Calcutta subsidiary. I am not talking of the whole country.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: I asked what was the original capital requirement for this group of mills—the West Bengal group of mills.

SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED: This subsidiary is also under the BIFR. The entire thing is under their consideration. I can give to the hon. Member the entire figure of the requirements. I can pass on the information to the hon. Member.

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : माननीय सभापति महोदय, इससे ऐसा लगता है कि अन्य प्रदेशों के साथ अन्याय किया गया है । यह 6.40 करोड़ रुपय वेस्ट बंगाल के अन्तर्गत जो मिल्ज हैं उनके लिए रिलीज किया गया है लेकिन मैं यह जानना चाहता है कि उत्तर प्रदेश के कितने कारखाने हैं जिनको आप पैसा देने वाले हैं, कितना देने वाले हैं और यदि नहीं देने वाले हैं तो क्यों नहीं देने वाले हैं? मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हू कि उत्तर प्रदेश के कितने कारखाने बी.आई. फ. आर. को भेजे गये हैं?

श्री कमालुद्दीन अहमद : सभापति महोदय, कोई नाइन्साफी या अन्याय की बात नहीं है । एन.टी.सी. की 9 सब्सिडेयरीज में से 7 आलरेडी बी.आई. एफ.आर. के पास हैं और आठवीं भी which is under the process of being referred to the BIFR, that is, Delhi, Punjab, Rajasthan.

एक ो सब्सिडेयरी ऐसी हैं जो.बी.आई. एफ.आर. को रेफर नहीं हुई और शायद रेफर नहीं की जाए ी ।

And that is Coimbatore subsidiary which is Tamil Nadu subsidiary.

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : मैंने उत्तर प्रदेश के बारे में पूछा था ।

SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED: The question was specifically for West Bengal subsidiary. I will collect the information and pass it on to the hon. Member.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Sir, we have a very sick Ministry for a sick industry. The Minister's reply is also not clear. Actually I don't know how you are going to revive this industry with Rs. 11 crores that was decided. I would like to know as to how many mills in these four States would be benefited by this amount of Rs. 11 crores when the entire amount is released. Already, the mills have been referred to the BIFR. Sir, it is understood that the Government has already taken a decision and it is under discussion in the sub Committee that many of the NTC mills would be closed down and some will be merged and a number of workers retrenched. Has the Government decided on merger and closure of the mills and if so, in which part of the country and secondly, Rs. 11 crores are for four States but NTC mills are spread over the entire country. What about the modernisation of the mills in the other States? Is the Government going to release funds for the modernisation of these mills; for example, the mills in Rajasthan, U.P. or any other State? What will happen to these mills? Therefore, I would like the hon. Minister to reply to these two questions. One is, whether they have decided on merger or closure of the mills whose cases are pending with the BIFR? Secondly, is the Government going to release funds for the modernisation of the mills in the other States also?

SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED: Sir, under the West Bengal subsidiary; there are 16 mills. In the country as a whole, hundred odd mills are there, nationalised textile mills. All of them are under enquiry by the BIFR. In regard to the question as to what would be the requirement of each subsidiary, each mill, I would require a fresh notice to answer it. I will pass on the information to him.

SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the century-old textile mill at Bangalore. After it was taken over by the N.T.C., the problem became more chronic. Then it was decided that it would be merged with another mill known as the Minerva Mills, in Bangalore. Sir, the workers have not been paid their wages for the last two months. It is very unfortunate that the Ministry is discriminating against the people of a particular State, a particular region in the matter of providing revival/modernisation package. For example, in the case of the Azam Jahi Mills, in Warangal, under the N.T.C., which was declared to be closed down on 30th June, 1993, it was given an urgent aid of Rs. 6.5 crores by the Government for its modernisation. However, the same measure of enthusiasm was not reflected in the matter of revival/modernisation...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please ask your question.

SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: It is very unfortunate that after the mill was taken over by the N.T.C., it looks as if they are determined, the management is determined, to declare the unit as a sick unit. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government has any concrete programme to revive it. If so, I would like to know the extent of aid package envisaged for it. If not, what are the reasons for the closure?

SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED: Sir, as I submitted earlier, the turnaround strategy has been worked out for all the mills under the N.T.C. Now, in regard to the particular mill

in Bangalore, which the hon. Member has referred to, there will definitely be plans for this mill also. I can pass on the information to the hon. Member.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 103. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Sir, you have left out Tamil Nadu. Please permit me to put just one question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have already taken so much time.

SHRI DAYANAND SAHAY: All the time, we have been raising our hands. You do not look to us. (*Interruptions*)

स्मारक डाक-टिकटें जारी किया जाना

*103. **श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय** : क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या 1992 वर्ष के दौरान स्मारक डाक टिकटें जारी करने संबंधी सरकार की योजना में शहीद ऊधम सिंह मेदनलाल डोंगरा, सर छोटू राया खान अब्दुल गफ्फार खां और भारती भवन पुस्तकालय इलाहाबाद के नाम शामिल थे ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में ब्यौरा क्या है ;

(ग) स्वर्गीय रफी अहमद किदवई की जन्म-शती के अवसर पर उनके सम्मान में डाक टिकट जारी करने के लिए सरकार क्या कार्यवाही कर रही है ; और

(घ) यह डाक टिकट कब तक जारी कर दिये जाने की संभावना है ?

संचार मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री सुखराम) : (क) विभाग द्वारा वर्ष 1992 में विशेष/स्मारक डाक टिकट जारी करने के लिए जो अनन्तिम कार्यक्रम बनाया गया था उसमें इन विशिष्ट व्यक्तियों/संस्थानों को भी शामिल किया गया है।

(ख) शहीद ऊधम सिंह और मदन लाल डोंगरा पर क्रमश: 31-7-92 और 28-12-92 को स्मारक डाक टिकट जारी किए गए थे । सर छोटू राम पर अभी तक डाक टिकट जारी नहीं किया जा सका क्योंकि डाक टिकट की डिजाइन के लिए उपयुक्त सामग्री जून, 1993 में ही मिल सकी। यह डाक टिकट सर छोटू राम की जन्म शताब्दी के अवसर पर जनवरी, 1995 में जारी करने का कार्यक्रम है। खान अब्दुल गफ्फार खां पर डाक टिकट 9-8-93 को जारी किया जाना है भारती भवन, इलाहाबाद पर डाक टिकट जारी करने के लए अभी तक कोई तारीख निश्चित नहीं की गई है।

(ग) और (घ) इस प्रस्ताव पर फिलैटलिक सलाहकार समिति द्वारा अपनी अगली बैठक में विचार किये जाने की संभावना है । डाक टिकट जारी करने की तारीख इस प्रस्ताव पर निर्णय ले लिए जाने के बाद ही तय की जा सकेगी ।

श्री सत्य प्राश मालवीय : माननीय सभापति जी, इसके पहले कि मैं प्रश्न पूछूं, मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री जी से कहना चाहता हूं कि मंत्री जी ने उत्तर दिया है, उसको दुरुस्त कर लें, क्योंकि मेरे प्रश्न का भाग "क" भारती भवन पुस्तकालय, इलाहाबाद के संबंध में है और आपने उत्तर भारतीय भवन, इलाहाबाद के संबंध में दिया है।

भारती भवन, इलाहाबाद एक दूसरी संस्था है इलाहाबाद की, तो मैं आपका जो कर्तव्य है, मैं उसका निर्वहन कर रहा हूं। कृपया, उत्तर पहले आप संशोधित कर लें।

भारती भवन पुस्तकालय, इलाहाबाद के संबंध में मेरा प्रश्न है और आपने उत्तर दिया है भारती भवन, इलाहाबाद के संबंध में-तो जहां आपने उत्तर दिया है वहां पर भारती भवन पुस्तकाल इलाहाबाद, बढ़ा दिया जायें । आपको मालूम तक नहीं है अभी।